

REMARKS

In the Non-final Office Action mailed on August 22, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 13, 21, 29, and 36 for informalities and to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 30, 33, 38, and 39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12-29, 31, 32, 34-37, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In this response:

claims 1, 10, 20-28, and 39-43 are cancelled;
claims 2-4, 11-19, 29-31, 36, and 38, are amended; and
claims 2-9, 11-19, and 29-38 are pending.

For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicant submits that the present application, including each of pending claims, is in condition for allowance.

Objections to Claims 13, 21, 29, and 36

The Examiner objected to claims 13, 21, 29, and 36 because of some stated informalities.

Please note that the Office Action erroneously starts the "Claim Objections" section on page 2 by objecting to claims 13, 21, 29-39, but in the elaboration of the objections the Office Action instead specifies 13, 21, 29, and 36, to which the objections actually apply.

In this response claim 21 has been cancelled and claims 13, 29, and 36 have been corrected; therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests the withdrawal of these objections.

(Allowable Subject Matter) Objections to Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 30, 33, 38, and 39

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 30, 33, 38, and 39 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Please note that claim 11, which is a part of the above claim set on the "Office Action Summary" page, is erroneously omitted from the same claim set restated at the beginning of the "Allowable Subject Matter" section on page 9 of the Office Action.

The objected claims 10 and 39 have been cancelled and claims 2, 3, 11, 30, and 38 have been amended to include all the limitations of claims 1, 1, 4, 29, and 29, respectively, and to be independent claims. Therefore, the amended independent claims 2, 3, 11, 30, and 38 are in condition for allowance and accordingly dependent claims 12-19 which depend from claim 11 and include the features of claim 11 are also in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12-29, 31, 32, 34-37, and 40-43

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 13-17, 20-26, 28-29, 31-32, 34-35, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal et al. (US 6,633,761) in view of Johansson et al. (US 2002/0044549).

The Examiner also rejected claims 18-19, 27, and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal in view of Johansson and further in view of Crosbie et al. (US 2002/0114303).

Please note that claim 12, which is a part of these rejected claims on the "Office Action Summary" page, is missing from either of the above two claim sets on pages 3 and 8 of the Office Action.

As mentioned above claims 1, 20-28, and 40-43 have been cancelled, and claims 4, 29, and 31 have been amended to include all the limitations of claims 10, 39, and 29, respectively, and to be independent claims. Therefore, the amended independent claims 4, 29, and 31 and their dependent claims 5-9 and 32-37, which depend from claims 4 and 29, respectively, and include the features of independent claims 4 and 29, are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3599.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 340158001US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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